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## Memory

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—Katharine Houle

Memory

I rub hard to  
Wipe it away  
In a fragmented,  
Dull pink  
“Used to be.”

It lightens,  
Yet remains  
Permanently engraved,  
Like Braille,

Or polemicist of mind.

Neither can be erased.  
Both are a feeling,  
Dimpling the pattern of meaning.

My memory has been dimpled.  
Transformed.  
No longer clean.

I had it wrong.  
Erasure won't do any good.  
It's there.

I am stubborn.  
Now scratching at it  
Frantically  
With the thumbnail of reason.

Warping and  
Fragmenting meaning.  
Skewing text.  
Carving something new:  
Intuit.

The memory remains.  
No matter how  
It's altered.